



The WSFA Journal

March-April 2018

Robert Sawyer
Confirmed for
2019

Quartz Accuracy

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Robert Sawyer Confirmed for 2019

The 3-2-18 First Friday in March was called to order by Prez Bob. “We’ll do this quickly because we have a guest reader tonight and the committee to discuss SF has a special event. The Secretary told me that no one gave him the minutes from last time, so we may have had a meeting.”

Treasurer Sam is here. We have \$\$\$. Reminder to pay your dues.

Bob said, “Let’s make committee reports succinct.”

Cathy for Capclave 2018. Moving along. We have GoH. Will have more on website. Sam said we are registering people online.

Capclave 2019. Robert Sawyer has confirmed dates in contract.

Cap 2020, nothing new to report.



WFC- Progress Reports have been mailed. Some received it. The PR has ballot info and some hotel info. Sam S said some activity. Sam S. said in last week we had about 20. As soon as started flooding in, I knew people were getting the progress report. Bill said we are adding some staff people. Because of <name’s>retirement, they are cutting back on conventions so are turning their memberships over for people in need. Guests are excited. Travel plans are being

made.

Twitter – Sarah is currently tweeting about the reading.

Trustees have one month to come up with slate. Looking for people for small press award.

Mark says he seems to be only trustee here.

The Committee to Talk SF will discuss Hugo nominations today. Clarkesworld at Third Friday, F&SF next month.

Bill said we have a reading and dinner with our reading guests and two friends who are also writers.

No known old business.

No new business.

First, second, or third meetings. Nicki is here for her third meeting.

Sam L. asked Sam S to email new member form.

Announcements: Judy S. survived surgery. Mark survived.

Bill has DC 17 shirts.

Meeting adjourned 9:27 unanimously.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burleson, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Sam Pierce, Aaron and Angela Pound, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Andrea Tang, Sophia Pound, Elly Ha, and Nikki Varney.



Quartz Accuracy
by N. Barry Carver

“Now the war’s over, this may be the best sort of work I can get.”

That’s all I was thinking when I went through that door.



Looking at myself walking up the street, I’ve wondered if there would be any way I could simply stop me, explain all this nonsense about time, and get out of this altogether. I’d tried it before. I grabbed me just there at the street corner I’m now passing. I didn’t get two words out before I vanished. The me that was left was so shocked that I ran through the door even faster, looking for an explanation ...and wound up right back here, again.

I tried going through the door myself, before I originally arrived, and simply lost a portion of the loop... winding up, right back here, again.

Not that some good hadn’t come out of it. The former Nazi scientist (who was fooling with – is it Electro-physics?) behind that door never expected me to blunder in. I’d mixed up the address. I’ve always had a bit of dyscalculia between ones and sevens.

I thought it was just a basement office where I could pick up some odd jobs. The smell of fish and garlic sauce was thick in the hallway. So I expected to find an old Korean guy behind a desk, with pile of help wanted notices, and a half-eaten to-go of kimchi. So in I came, busting through just as Otto von Haigerloch was trying out his little machine in a panic. He was trying to send a vial, packed inside a thermos full of jelly, through what he called a portal and, against all probability, it worked.

See the Feds were onto him and he knew he’d get twenty years for all the stuff he’d already pilfered from military bases. So he sent the little bottle to himself 25 years in the future at the same location. The problem for him came after his gizmo sent his package and he couldn’t shut it down. Because the opening he’d made just kept sucking, it eventually pulled everything small out of the room until the portal itself collapsed.

Right after he pushes the go button is where I open the door, answering an ad for a jack-of-no-trades. When I twist the knob the door jerks open so violently I tripped over the doorjamb, and stumble headlong across the room.

His portal was only about a two and a half foot circle... which explains my present appearance and this artificial arm and foot. Another side effect of getting sucked into the mess was that both the bottle and me wound up popping out in 1984 instead of 1973. Old Otto was dead by that time, due to an extended stay at the hotel Graybar, and never had the chance to try this trick again.

It took me years to piece together what had happened to me and another decade to recreate the portal. It’s a good thing the Doc kept detailed notes. Notes I inherited as they came flying through the portal after me... all landing in the middle of a coffee shop. His



effect's gutting of his basement lair in 1947 caused its ceiling to give way, and, by the time I arrived, it had been vacant for years then was gentri-furbished into a hip brownstone roastery. I appeared midair and flopped onto a table, minus a portion of my left side, just behind the proprietor, who was opening up for the day. In '47 I'd have died right there. '84 meant 9-1-1 got there in under five minutes, saved my life and scratched their heads later.



The big difference for Otto's machine was that 90s computing made his 40's design much more controllable and predictable. I've been landing myself on this corner, within 3 inches of this spot and 3 minutes of my previous self's arrival, for, if I remember them all, some 9 attempts.

I've tried posting a quarantine sign on the door, starting a fire in that trash can over there, even telling the cop down the street that there was a woman screaming rape at that address. While he waited for backup... history re-wrote itself again and again.

So here I come again, nearly at the address now.

My rescuers gave me everything they thought belong to me on the way out of the hospital. And, okay, sure I right away destroyed the whatever-it-was that the Nazi was sending himself. But, in going through his notes with the enlightenment of history on my side, I can't be sure what I destroyed.

He was a first-class Poindexter on several levels and had written up a number of vaccines formulas (no doubt using research his Reich so callously conducted) with little economic reason to do so. So, was the stuff in the thermos the trigger for mad cow disease? Or was what I mixed with bleach and flushed the key to eliminating HIV – 10 years before the AIDS crisis? A variant of TB that would explain the newest resistant strains, or a sample of some unknown cure bought at the cost of million experiments performed on innocent victims of war? I'd never know. I was stuck in a circle of time between my now and my previous now. Go figure.

My plan had become desperate and simple. The only thing I could do was to take my dumb ass out of the mix and let fate do whatever the hell it wanted with the rest. It may sound selfish but if I look at this time-travel thing from any other perspective there are worse things that could happen... and it makes me dizzy.

So that was it. I knew from experience that Otto throws the switch just as I reach for that doorknob. My former me's foot is on that first step so, here we go.

What? No, it was like being back in Aachen – in the war.

I was headed for this job interview, see? Just as I got there this guy, with a gimpy leg, comes running at me. He pulls something like a ripcord on a heavy vest and the whole street turned white.



I wake up with my ears ringing like a payphone and I'm laying face-up looking at a cop. The whole office I was headed for is caved right in.

This? I don't know. Just a watch I found next to me on the street. Looks like it's all I got for what I've been through... and I can't figure out how to wind it. It seems to work but if the Bulova on your wall is right, a minute fast.

Your Argument Is Invalid; My Dodo Has A Top Hat

The 3-16-18 March Third Friday began with "It's meeting time," said Prez Bob. If you haven't done your Hugo noms, you have until 2 am our time.

Mr. Secretary. Sam L. read the minutes.

Cap present not here. Tabled at Heliosphere. Bill has flyers.

Everything moving along, said Bob.

Future not here.

2020. – Bill said nothing official to report, things percolating.

WFC – Bill said there was a progress report that the printer said went to mailing, but no one has seen them. Michael Ikeda said he got one today. The PR has a ballot for nominations. Bill said, they are arriving after 15 days. Rodger said, at Balticon meeting, one person had received it. Bill said that at the last meeting Sam S said we got a bump in membership due to Twitter/Facebook, but should get a bigger bump when the progress reports arrive. We are a third to a halfway to the membership cap; I'd like to see it higher. People will start thinking about it more once the Hugo ballots are done tonight. At Heliosphere, I chatted with Tom Kidd, artist GoH, who is working on a logo for our convention. I got a copy of his art book, Kiddography.

I will send letters to each of our guests to be published in upcoming WSFA Journals. <In this issue!> This will introduce WSFA to our guests, which is challenging for some people like Scott Edelman who already knows us. Jokes about Mike Walsh. He's already an old fart said prez Bob.

Bill continued, we have agreement on new WFC finalist pins. The order we are discussing is 200. Talked to Neil Clarke. No pins were handed out in 2016. We will allow any nominee from 16 or 17 to buy a pin at cost. We will pass extras to upcoming conventions.

Back to Capclave, There's a new important code phrase, your argument is invalid, my dodo has a top hat. It shuts down debate. Bill also said to keep in mind, if, in the future, Capclave would like to host 1632 minicon, Eric Flint would be willing to come. Ring of Fire press is doing *Second Chance Bird*, about a dodo.

Small press award- Carolyn said, she went to Costa Rica for 10 days so haven't checked. Had 73 stories before she left. Trying to catch up, have 8 or 9 more. Last year 109 by the end of deadline. This year the deadline is April 8th. Paul has put up 65 stories. Club members can nominate.

Intertivities - Sam L said SP Somtow concert Thursday April 26th free tickets to WSFAns who give email and address. Kim said a house has been printed with a 3d printer. Kim went to DeepSouthCon. Cosplayed.



Talk SF will discuss the Asimov's Trustees – Rodger said elections in May, all positions open. Trustees are doing a slate. Anyone can nominate. Michael asked about last time there was a contested election. Bob said two years ago, there was a contested election for trustees.



Constitution – Sam L. showed off membership cards from the 1970s.

No old business.

New business: Sam L said there is a fifth Friday this month. Good Friday and the beginning of Awesome Con and Passover.

No new business:

Announcements: Costa Rica is wonderful. Mike has books.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burleson, Rodger Burns, Carolyn Frank, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Beth Jones, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Steve Smith, Mike Taylor, Ivy Yap

Letters to/from World Fantasy Guests

As many of you know WSFA is co-hosting (with BSFS) the 2018 World Fantasy Convention. Recently Bill Lawhorn wrote letters to the guest of honor. Here is one of his letters (the other two were near identical) and two responses. We'll print the third one in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Hi Aliette,

I hope all is well with you and that winter didn't hit you too hard. It is approaching spring here and the weather decided to try for a little more winter. Thank you once again for being our Special Guest at the Baltimore World Fantasy Convention this fall. This letter is a way for our club members to get to know you, and maybe a little bit about me as well when we publish the letters in a future WSFA Journal.

I am the CoChair who represents the Washington Science Fiction Association in partnership with the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, although I am a member of both clubs. I was born in Wisconsin but migrated to the Washington DC metro area when I got a job with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2000. Within a year a coworker invited me to a WSFA meeting where I was welcomed with open arms. Have you been involved in any SF clubs or associations?

WSFA is one of the oldest science fiction clubs in the US founded in 1947. The club hosted two Worldcons and a couple of World Fantasy Conventions. In 1963, club members from Baltimore started BSFS. So we do have a long history of working together.

One of my first conventions was the 2003 World Fantasy Convention hosted by WSFA on Capitol Hill. That kind of skews a person's expectations of what a convention should be. My fondest memory of that convention was spending about 20 minutes chatting with Michael Stackpole talking about **I Jedi**. I won't forget that bag of books either. It was where I realized I could interact as a person with the creators of the books I read. What was your first convention and what was the most memorable thing about it?

Being a member of WSFA also gave me the chance to review books for SFREVU, an online review site run by a club member. I have been writing reviews for them for over a decade. I have written a few reviews for the WSFA Journal as well. My reviews have come a long way since that first one, but there are still

some things which remain. I think my first review was for a Harry Turtledove book in the TL191 series. What was your first story?

Attending conventions has allowed me to meet a ton of great people, but it also lead to a great quandary in my life, reading books by people I know before I read their books. What if I don't like their work? Will something I read change how I view them? Okay, it typically doesn't, but that irrational part of my brain still freaks about taking that first foray. You've attended conventions around the world, what differences have you seen?

After a few years in DC, I ended up organizing the program for a couple of professional conventions related to Economics and forecasting. After I did that and chaired one of those conventions, I realized I could handle running our local SF convention, Capclave. The best part of it was choosing the Guests of Honor; I still love that aspect of convention running. It is a great way to meet and interact with guests. Where was your first Guest of Honor gig and was there anything that made it memorable?

Having attended WFC in 2003 but not for a while after that, I returned in 2010 since it was close in Columbus, Ohio. It actually was our honeymoon as I'd married Sarah Mitchell a couple of weeks before that convention. It was there I had a chance to see more of the convention and learn its feel and how it changes based on the staff and city. My cochair, Ann Marie Rudolph, and I are looking forward to highlighting Baltimore's Inner Harbor with our Safe Harbors theme. It will also be fun to work with the Mary Shelley Frankenstein 200th anniversary as well.

Your body of work is expanding, what work do you recommend everyone read to get a feel for your writing? (I suppose I could recommend, *On a Red Station Drifting*, shameless plug for WSFA Press.) I like to make sure I have read the seminal works of authors, and I expect many others would as well.

If you are planning to come in early, what is the one thing you don't want to miss? I am, of course, the typical local who waits to go to museums until there is a guest in the area who wants to go first. Although, with the convention planning, I probably can't get away to enjoy it with you.

Then again, I hope we can plan to have at least one meal together. That is always a nice way to bond.

I look forward to seeing you this fall,

Bill Lawhorn
WFC 2018 CoChair



Dear Bill,

Thank you very much for your lovely letter and for inviting me to Baltimore! I'm delighted to be a Special Guest at the WFC this fall.

I came to Science Fiction writing through Interzone. Jesse de Vries published my first short story in a major market, "Dear Flight", back in 2007. He was also amazingly kind when I arrived at the 2008 Easterncon, a newbie author with no particular relationships within the field or fandom - he and Roy Gray spent the weekend introducing me to everyone! (I still love Easterncon fiercely partly because they were so welcoming - Jesse doesn't attend much anymore, but Roy still runs the Interzone stall and is always unfailingly kind and supportive).

Conventions in France tend to be a little different - they're financed by the region or the state and reading is seen as very important business for everyone, so they will have school events and encourage students to come - our two biggest events are free to attend.

You sound like you've had a chance to meet some amazing people (though con-running must also be a lot of exhausting work! I've only ever been responsible for an anime bar at a university party and it was already head aches a plenty).

My first Goth gig was at Fincon in Helsinki in 2013 - It was memorable because I had to

Write them about four months before the con and confirm with them that I'd be 7 months along at the con with my pregnancy - I was so worried they'd withdraw the invitation, but they were amazing! They made sure I was all set up and that I had a car to take me places because I wasn't allowed to walk very far - and we went to a killing restaurant, visited the Helsinki harbor and tower, and generally had a grand time there.

I love your Honey Moo a Story! (I dragged my boy friend/future husband to Worldcon in Glasgow, as a place to all the conventions we'd go to together, habab navigating) - Safe Harbors is a lovely theme and I'm looking forward to seeing the program here (and thank you for all the travel advice! I will probably do my sightseeing after the con - possibly a fountain pen stop!) My seminal work... oh this is like picking favo children, so hard! I think in SF I would agree with you on On a Red Station Drifting, which was my first piece of domestic space opera - In Fantasy the House of Shattered Wings would be my rec - it merges my love of 19th Century Gothic, Vietnamese mythology, and French history -

I definitely am up for a meal together! I would love to hear more stories from you, and I've always keen to try the best local food -

Looking forward to seeing you this fall (and online before that!)

Best
/ Alette

Hey Bill,

It was such a gift getting a real letter in the mail, not advertising and bills!



Life in general is very good for me. I love living in Arizona since moving here in 2014 from New York City and winter is the best time in the desert. I'm fine with exchanging cold-cold winters for hot-hot summers.

The first genre convention I attended was 1995 I-Con on Stony Brook University campus (started in 1982). The interesting thing is that the second convention I went to was 1996 WFC in Baltimore, MD!! I still have the beautiful convention book. Rick Berry was the Artist GOH, his spread in the book is impressive even 23 years later because of the mix of ethnic characters. I treasure being able to talk to Lucius Shepard after his panel. I asked if I could have his name fold signed and he happily did so! I remember being so excited to meet Terry Bisson, Howard Waldrop, Gene Wolfe (who all signed my con book) and Edward Bryant for the first time.

I'm looking forward to being Toastmaster at WFC. I love Baltimore, my sister and her family live there and I've visited many times. I've been an active member of SFWA (Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America) and SFPA (Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association) for many years, as well as HWA (Horror Writers Association). Although many people associate me with horror poetry/fiction, I've written science-fiction and fantasy poetry and fiction. I read tons of science-fiction and fantasy in junior high, high school and college.

My first publication with poetry were in 1994 when I had three poems published. The first poem I had in print was *Bard Wellington* (June 1994) in "Just Write Magazine" (which you can see by the language is dated now: 3.5" or 5.25" floppy).

Bard Wellington
(serves 365, except on leap years)
by Linda D. Addison

Take a year of health
sprinkled with fulfilled dreams
and wondrous surprises.

Add lots of laughter
with a few tears on the side.

Mix in an ample supply of ideas,
with characters you know
and strangers (or strange-r).

A dash of a well-turned phrase, as needed.
Two fists full of hard work and frustration.

Stir gently
or stir roughly—depending on taste.

Pour into a 3.5" or 5.25" floppy

and print when done.

Garnish with a SASE...

Per serving: 0 calories, 0 cholesterol, infinite possibilities of being published.

#

In 1995 my first fiction was published, 795 word story called *Am I Repeating Myself?* (Outer Darkness magazine #14), the story is reprinted in my fiction/poetry collection, "How To Recognize A Demon Has Become Your Friend". I'm excited that the story was also selected by PSEUDOPOD to be recorded in their 2018 podcast schedule.

The difference between writing fiction and poetry is that poetry is always going through my mind. I've called it my first voice and feel like I could write poetry 24 hours/7 days a week. Fiction comes to me at times but usually involves more work to complete.

Like you, I'm inspired and energized by meeting other creators at conventions. Many of the books in my bookcase over the years are from conventions. I keep separate compartments in my mind for authors and their work, mostly because I know writing is an evolution and objective so I don't compare their work to their personality.

My first time being Guest of Honor at 2005 World Horror Convention in New York City as Poet GOH. It was entirely wonderful to have a limo pick me up in the Bronx and deliver me to the convention hotel. At that point I had won my first HWA Bram Stoker award and it felt like an additional celebration in my home town for that reason. There were so many unforgettable moments: having Douglas Clegg write about me for the con book, writing a piece for Harlan Ellison ending with my first time writing a poem using his titles, spending time with my author friends: Jack Ketchum, Tom & Michelle Piccirilli, Brian Keene, spending time with creators who became friends: Mort Castle, Elizabeth & Tom Monteleone, Joe Lansdale, Stanley Wiater, Tim Lebbon and F. Paul Wilson. These and others were people whose work I knew and admired—it was pretty mind-blowing!

The one book that I often suggest for people who haven't read my work is my collection of short stories and poetry, "How To Recognize A Demon Has Become Your Friend", especially since it shows my work in SF, fantasy and horror and received 2011 HWA Bram Stoker award®.

In 2015 I started doing daily (more or less) Life poems in Twitter, had them feed automatically to FaceBook. I meditate every day and the thoughts that surface end up as Life poem. Each poem represents something I'm working on, I'm deeply honored that they have come to mean so much to others. One day I see a book of the best of the Life poems published with art by different people.

I am planning to arrive a day early but since I'm traveling across the country there won't be much time or energy left in the arriving day to do much, but I'm looking forward to some great seafood, which you can imagine is not easy to find in the desert (Arizona). Hoping you and I and others will be able to share more seafood.



-linda d. addison



I'm Just Gonna Call Everyone Sam

The 4-6-18 First Friday in April began with Prez Bob presiding. "All right folks; let's get the show on the road. It's 9:14." Sam L read minutes. Sam P did money. "We're doing okay". I'm collecting dues. If you want to vote next month, you must be a member. We have 33 members. <Someone coughed Poll Tax> April \$\$. Year over year \$\$

Trustees – Mark read slate – Bob, George, Sam S, Sam L, Trustees – Rodger, Barry, and Elizabeth (I may change my name to Sam). Small Press – Cathy and Kim.

Small Press. We have xx stories said Gayle. Cathy said Carolyn emailed xx stories. Xx stories have been nominated by WSFA members, you have until Sunday. Last year it was xx stories. No themes. Large numbers of unmemorable fantasy. A lot of horror, and a few science fiction.

Bob said we will depend on the committee to winnow these down to 7 or 8, Bill coughed, six.



Capclave present. Cathy said the Concom had a meeting. We have a committee to run programming which Sam P has volunteered to run. I'm not above bribing people so if interested email her. Paul has put up attendees list. I'm just gonna call everyone Sam. Other Sam will be coordinating with Guests of Honors. Two upcoming conventions where we will table are Ravencon and Balticon. If you are going to either, please agree to do one to three hours at the table over the weekend, that will spread it out and not interfere with anyone going to the program. There probably will be an hour or two of programming where there's nothing you want to see, not to dis Rodger, so sit at the table. Courtney will be seeing about at table at Blurtcon. Take flyers. Flyers on the website so you can download. I was at Regen Who, I thought I wouldn't do much business there; I had a dodo with a fourth doctor costume. People were happy with the Dodo approved costume ribbons. The DC Z-folds, I brought about 50 and they all went, really attractive art. There were people there who had been to Discon II. So even if going to event you think no one is interested, take flyers anyway.

Capclave Future – Sam P. Nothing new to report.

Capclave Far Future – Bill said had a discussion with Collette.

WFC – Bill said, memberships are coming in, we had a nice weekend before the price went up, but getting one or two a day. Sam S. said one just came in (it was Sarah's). There is a fair chance we will have a table at Balticon since it is a joint effort. Try to get a few more pings. The final ballot will help when that's out. Bill said, awards are separate so don't know if people are nominated. Ballots are online. Discussion of ballot.

I've been sending letters to GoH. I got a response. Scott sent a hostage note that he's all tied up and cannot respond yet.

Karen Warren tweeted that she just got hers. So should be getting letters soon. That's it.

Committee to discuss SF will do the Asimov's.

Intertivities. Bill said, Sat 14th 8pm, there will be a reading from *The Poppy War* at the BSFS clubhouse in Baltimore. Reviews are exceptionally good.

Kim said Dark Gnome Press selling collections of mythology, Lovecraft, Lost Lands etc., \$5 each at Barnes and Noble.

Constitution. – Need to go through the boxes of stuff from Steve's.

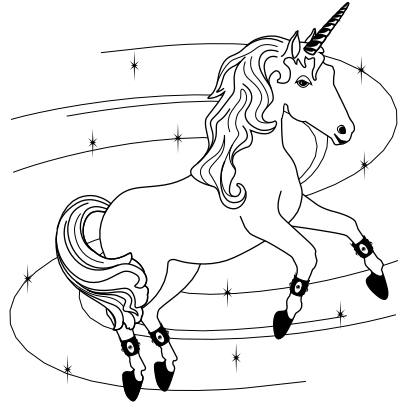
Publishing – Things are moving on the book. We are on track and they should be ready by Capclave said Gayle. Since it is a limited edition, you should get moving.

Cathy asked what about people who have already registered for Capclave.

Gayle said contact Paul and he will verify your Capclave member and he will give you a code to buy on the WSFA Press.

Web – If you have an event or something special, send to Gayle for the Calendar. If you are daring, ask for a login and do it yourself. The Sept/Oct journal is up.

Last journal for 2017 is out. Sam L. asked for content.



Elizabeth said we still have a meetup. We are all here. Zenlizard I wouldn't say that. You are physically here. Sarah said people should tweet.

Sam S asked about Facebook account. Cathy said we have a Capclave account and WSFA page which keeps get spammed by Escape Velocity. They are ignoring comments about Balticon.

Bill said for Intertivities. At past Balticons we have gotten together for dinner. I'm not it, but if someone wants to organize it, people can go to dinner. Mark said lots of people cannot afford Fogo de Chão.

No old business.

New business. Mark would like to make a motion, that web master correct the website and email list of officers.

Sam L. said the secretary will notify the webmaster.

Sam L made a motion that since *Uncanny* magazine has gotten a lot of attention, that we alternate between *Clarkesworld* and *Uncanny* for Committee to Discuss SF. Prez said not necessary to make a motion. The committee can do this.

Announcements: Kathi said, for two weeks, Friends of the Arlington Planetarium will do 12 screenings of a new animation piece. Called *In the Mists of the Inferno*. Later we have a film festival of all four in the series.

Mike Walsh, April 2, 1968, 2001 had its premiere at the Uptown Theater in DC. China Miéville won a Guggenheim Fellowship, (although a Brit, his mother is American so he qualified).

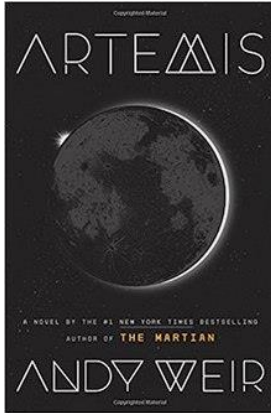


Meeting adjourned 9:49, unanimously.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burluson, Rodger Burns, Ken Byrer, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Sam Hogan, David Keener, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Eugenia Martin, Sarah Mitchell, Michael Nelson, Barry Newton, Kathi Overton, Sam Pierce, Mark Roth, George Shaner, Gayle Surette, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, N. Barry Carver, Rick Ellrod, and David Holden

Review of *Artemis* by Andy Weir

Reviewed by Sam Lubell



Author Andy Weir faced a problem. His first book *The Martian* became a phenomenon that inspired an excellent movie. So how could he follow that up? His solution was to write a book whose main character, Jazz Bashara, is a petty criminal, a smuggler who, while being exceptional smart, is also incredibly lazy who has wasted her every opportunity. This seems a long way from clean-cut all-American astronaut Mark Watney. At the same time, *Artemis*, named for only city on the moon, emphasizes engineering with lots of technical details and even a struggle to survive on the lunar surface that will make the book attractive to fans of *The Martian*.

Essentially *Artemis* is a caper book. It opens with an exciting scene in which the narrator, Jazz, has an air leak in her spacesuit, which she bought used, and barely makes it to the airlock. As a result she fails the test to join the EVA Guild, a requirement to lead groups of tourists on the lunar surface. This sets a pattern for the book, Jazz messes up and resorts to something even more dangerous, illegal, or both, to get out of it. Jazz makes most of her money by smuggling in goods thanks to a pen-pal on Earth. When she delivers cigars to Trond, a billionaire living on the moon because the gravity is easier on his crippled daughter, the businessman offers her a million slugs if she can wreck Sanchez Aluminum's harvesters so he could buy the company. Although just a smuggler, not a saboteur, Jazz agrees.

Though complex engineering and a great deal of creativity, Jazz manages to wreck three of the four, not enough to fulfill the contract but enough to get Sanchez's mob owners to kill Trond and send an assassin after her. So Jazz has to figure out what is really going on, survive being chased by both an assassin and the moon's only cop, and perform an even bigger act of sabotage, one that risks killing everyone on the moon.

Weir has thought a lot about the conditions of working-class people on the moon. If there are to be tourists and engineers building things requiring zero gravity, there will have to be cleaning and porting. Jazz is so poor that she lives in a "capsule domicile," about the size of a coffin, eats "gunk" made of algae, and dreams of being rich enough to have her own condo with its own bathroom and shower.

Jazz is an interesting character. Everyone keeps telling her that she has wasted her potential. Her pen pal even writes, "I would give anything to be as smart as you. But I'm not. That's okay. I work hard instead, and you're lazy as hell." Even Jazz recognizes this failing. "...there's no one I hate more than teenage Jazz Bashara. That stupid bitch made every bad decision a stupid bitch could make. She's responsible for where I am today." Still, she does have ethics. She won't break a deal. When she lies to the head of security, he offers her money to tell the truth, knowing "You'll lie all day if we're just talking. But if I pay for the truth, that makes it a business deal. And a Bashara never reneges on a deal." She also is good in a crisis and better at making true friends than she realizes.

Ultimately, *Artemis* is not up to the standards of *The Martian*. The author is a bit too heavy-handed with the idea that Jazz is a mixed-up failure and sometimes allows the technical details to slow the plot. But it is good enough to show that *The Martian* was not a fluke. I look forward to Weir's next book.

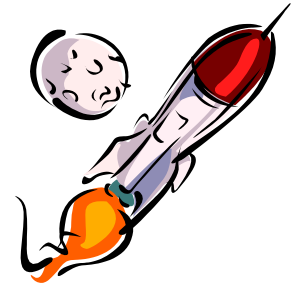
Lawrence and Julie Evans Announce Move

April 20, 2018 -- WSFA Third Friday Meeting was called to order at 9:15. Kim Hargan appointed acting secretary. <Thanks Kim!>

No old business

Most committee heads are elsewhere (mostly Ravencon), so no committee reports

Trustees: WSFA election will take place May 1. A slate had been prepared. In order to vote, you have to be a member and present. Roger read the slate as it stands (mostly folks up for reelection).



Small Press Award: Xx entries have been put up on the Web site for the committee. The committee will be meeting in early June to decide on the slate of stories, then within 48 hours following that the slate will be up for the beginning of the voting by the general members.

Committee to Discuss Science Fiction: This evening the subject of discussion will be the April Clarkesworld (for anyone who has read it). Next First Friday the committee will discuss the March/April F&SF. (FYI – I don't know if you need to include this, but there was no discussion, as Kim Hargan was the only member who had read the Clarkesworld. <Hey everyone, the magazines are free on the Internet with lots of great stories. Read them!>)



Secretary's announcement and the house announcements.

Eva announced that this coming Wednesday (April 25) there would be a dinner at the Denny's in Alexandria at 7:00 pm to meet with Somtow Sucharitkul. His concert for this month was postponed to September, but he will be in town anyway and would like to meet with WSFA members. More info will be put up on Facebook.

Lawrence and Julie Evans announced that they will be moving later this year, so they brought with them various items that people could take (reducing their household stuff).

Intertivities: The Air and Space Museum has opened a homage to the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey in the form of a re-creation of the hotel room from the end of the movie.

It was noted that today would have been John and Candy's 19th anniversary.

9:29 the meeting adjourned.